



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR GSC CHIPOTLE TEXAS, LTD

FORT STOCKTON, TEXAS, February 15, 2006— Billy Curb, USDA Rural Development Business and Cooperative Specialist, today presented a ceremonial check for a \$150,000 Value Added Producer Grant to GSC Chipotle Texas, Ltd of Fort Hancock, Texas. The funds will be used to offset the expense of producing and marketing a value added chipotle and smoked chile processing facility. As producers of green jalapeno, Kenneth Carr and Gale Carr of Border Land Farms, discovered 25% of their jalapeno crop developed red coloration due to maturity before harvest. Seeking ways to overcome these losses, they worked with the Texas Cooperative Extension Service to assess the feasibility of producing chipotle and smoked specialty chiles with the red peppers. The results prompted them to convert the red jalapeno by-product into popular value added products, such as chipotle, to develop new markets and relieve financial burdens placed on other areas of their farming operation.

“USDA Rural Development promotes efforts to bring together agricultural producers and rural businesses to spur economic opportunities for rural communities” said USDA Rural Development State Director, Bryan Daniel. “During Fiscal Year 2005 Texas USDA Rural Development awarded over \$1 million in Value-Added Producer Grants.”

Since 2001 the Bush Administration has committed over \$115 million to support value-added agricultural investments, including over 110 energy-related projects. Value-Added Producer Grants may be used for planning activities, such as feasibility studies or business plans, or to provide working capital for marketing value-added agricultural products and for farm-based renewable energy projects. Eligible applicants are independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, agricultural producer groups, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures.

USDA Rural Development strives to ensure that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, call the El Paso Local Office at 915-855-1229 or visit us on the web at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.



Photo of the VAPG check presentation for GSC Chipotle Texas, Ltd. Pictured are left to right: Gayle Carr - GSC Chipotle Texas, Ltd of Fort Hancock; Billy Curb - USDA Rural Development Coop Development Specialist, Temple; John Perkins - Area Director, Fort Stockton; Anita Sprinkle - RDM, El Paso; Melanie Gentry and Phyllis Gentry, Dell City, TX grant consultant

Committed to the future of rural communities.

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